



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Richard M. Flynn, Commissioner

Division of Fire Safety & Emergency Management

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Donald P. Bliss, State Fire Marshal



Office: Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, Route 106, Concord, N.H.

Mailing Address: 10 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H. 03305

603-271-3294, FAX 603-271-1091

INFORMATIONAL BULLITEN 2003-05

November 26, 2003

CHRISTMAS TREE REGULATIONS

The following regulations relative to Christmas Trees in public buildings have been adopted as part of the New Hampshire State Fire Code (NFPA 1:3-9):

- 1.) Natural cut Christmas trees shall not be permitted in assembly, educational, day-care, health care, residential board and care, detention and correctional, mercantile, hotel, or dormitory occupancies.
Exception No. 1: Day-care homes.
Exception No. 2: Living trees in a balled condition with their roots protected by an earth ball shall be permitted provided they are maintained in a fresh condition and are not allowed to become dry.
Exception No. 3: Trees located in areas protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system.
- 2.) Artificial combustible vegetation and Christmas trees shall be labeled or otherwise identified or certified by the manufacturer as being flame retardant or flame resistive.
- 3.) No combustible vegetation and Christmas trees shall be allowed to obstruct corridors, exit ways, or other means of egress.
- 4.) Only listed electrical lights and wiring shall be used on combustible vegetation, Christmas trees, and similar decorations.
- 5.) Electrical lights shall be prohibited on metal artificial trees.
- 6.) Open flames such as from candles, lanterns, kerosene heaters, and gas-fired heaters shall not be located on or near combustible vegetation, Christmas trees, or other similar combustible materials.
- 7.) Combustible vegetation and natural cut Christmas trees shall not be located near heating vents or other fixed or portable heating devices that could cause it to dry out prematurely or to be ignited.
- 8.) In occupancies where natural trees are permitted, the bottom end of the trunk shall have a straight fresh cut of at least 1/2 in. (13 mm) above the end prior to placing the tree in a stand to allow the tree to absorb water. The tree shall be placed in a suitable stand with adequate water. The water level shall be maintained above the fresh cut and checked at least once daily. **The tree shall be removed from the building immediately upon evidence of dryness.**

Local fire chiefs are authorized by the NH State Fire Code to inspect trees on behalf of the State Fire Marshal's Office and to order its removal if a fire hazard exists.

This reminder is provided by the Department of Safety to ensure a safe holiday season for all.

Happy Holidays!